

Remarks

Minor typographically errors in the specification have been corrected.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 11, 12, 14, 17, 18, 20, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 32-35, 37, 39, and 41-45 have been cancelled. Claims 3, 6, 8, 9, 10, 13, 15, 16, 19, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 31, 36, 38 and 40 have been amended to remove dependency from rejected claims in view of the Examiner's Statement of Allowable Subject Matter in paragraph 11 of the Office Action. Claims 46 and 47 have been added; however these claims depend from amended claims 8 and 24, respectively, and merely incorporate subject matter that the Examiner previously indicated was allowable in claims 8 and 24 as originally drafted. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the amended claims as well as these additional claims are now in condition for allowance and earnestly solicits early indication of same.

In view of the foregoing amendments and the Examiner's previous indication of allowable subject matter, Applicant submits that claims 3, 6, 8, 9, 10, 13, 15, 16, 19, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 31, 36, 38, 40, 46 and 47 are now in condition for allowance.

Applicant hereby Petitions for an extension of time of two months to file this response pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136. A check is enclosed in the amount of \$~~303~~ to cover the extension fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(a) (\$215) and the fee for two additional independent claims (\$88).

Applicant authorizes the Commissioner to charge any underpayment, or credit any overpayment associated with this paper, to Deposit Account No. 23-0920. Further, should any additional petition be necessary, Applicant requests that the currently filed paper constitute any such necessary petition and authorizes the Commissioner to charge any fees associated with any such additional petition to the Deposit Account identified herein.

Serial No. 09/935,264
Group No. 2856

Amendment A

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would further expedite prosecution and allowance of the present application, it is respectfully requested that he contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,
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